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If you believe you are eligible to vote and encounter difficulty registering, please contact the New Hampshire Elections Division, at:

State Capitol Building, Room 204  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301  
Office hours are: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

(603) 271-3242 (voice)  
(603) 271-6316 (fax)  
email: [elections@sos.state.nh.us](mailto:elections@sos.state.nh.us)  
website: [www.state.nh.us/sos/electionsnew.htm](http://www.state.nh.us/sos/electionsnew.htm)

If the New Hampshire Elections Division is unable to help you, or to report a problem, contact:

U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Voting Section, Rm. 7254 - NWB  
Washington, D.C. 20530  
(202) 307-2767 (voice)  
(800) 253-3931 (toll-free)  
(202) 307-3961 (fax)  
[www.usdoj.gov/crt](http://www.usdoj.gov/crt)

*This pamphlet is provided for informational purposes only, as an aid to further inquiry. The laws in many states are revised frequently, and may have changed since this pamphlet was issued. It is your responsibility to determine whether you are lawfully eligible to vote, and criminal penalties can result from voting when ineligible or making false statements on a registration form.*

Issued December, 2000

U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division



# Restoring Your Right to Vote



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The right to vote is an important civil right in a democracy as well as a civic responsibility, and yet many persons who have been convicted of a crime do not know whether they are eligible to vote. For both federal and state elections, the right to vote is controlled by the law of the state in which you live. Some states restrict the right to vote for persons who have been convicted of a crime. This pamphlet is intended to help you determine whether you are eligible to vote in the state in which you live, and if so, what steps you must take to be permitted to vote.

### **What law governs whether my felony conviction limits my right to vote?**

The impact of a criminal conviction on the right to vote varies widely from state to state. Whether you can vote after being convicted of a crime is determined by the state in which you live, not the state in which you were convicted.

### **Can I vote while I'm incarcerated in New Hampshire?**

If you are a resident of New Hampshire, you cannot vote while you are incarcerated as a result of a felony conviction. If you are a resident of another state who is temporarily incarcerated in New Hampshire, you may be able to vote an absentee ballot for your home state. You need to consult the law of your home state regarding both criminal convictions and absentee ballots to see if this is a possibility.

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### **I have been released from incarceration. How do I restore my right to vote?**

In New Hampshire, the right to vote is automatically restored upon lawful release from incarceration. In order to vote, you simply must register.

### **What if my conviction was for a federal crime?**

New Hampshire applies the same rules whether you were convicted of a federal or state crime.

### **What if I was convicted in another state?**

The same rules apply for New Hampshire voters even if the conviction occurred in another state.

### **What happens if I move to another state?**

If you move to another state, your right to vote will be controlled by the laws of that state.

### **What are New Hampshire's voter registration requirements?**

To vote in New Hampshire, you must be a U.S. citizen and at least 18 years of age. There is no minimum period of time you are required to have lived in New Hampshire before being allowed to register.

### **When do I need to register to vote?**

Registration is available year round in New Hampshire. You can register with the town or city clerk up to 10 days before an election.

You can also simply register at the polls on election day. If you do this, you will need to fill out an election day affidavit and you may be asked to show proof of age, citizenship, and/or domicile.

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### **Where do I go to register?**

Registration is available at many places in New Hampshire, including the town or city clerk's office, the department of transportation, and many public service agencies.